

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 188

By Burks

A RESOLUTION to recognize and congratulate the members of the Cookeville/Putnam County Public Access Defibrillation program upon being awarded the Heart Safe Community Award presented by the International Association of Fire Chiefs and Medtronics.

WHEREAS, seldom observed by the public, health devices and public safety programs nevertheless provide essential services in our society; and

WHEREAS, when an emergency occurs, prompt medical treatment is critical to the protection of life, and in many emergency situations, Automated External Defibrillators may make the difference between life and death; and

WHEREAS, since the late 1990s, Cookeville and Putnam County have been leaders in promoting the use of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) to strengthen emergency services' response and care; and

WHEREAS, evincing a deep commitment to the safety and health of its residents, Cookeville and Putnam County started the Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) program and began purchasing AEDs for emergency personnel, city buildings, churches, private businesses, and Putnam County public schools; approximately 150 AEDs are located within Cookeville and Putnam County; and

WHEREAS, the Cookeville/Putnam County Public Access Defibrillation program is the only organization in the United States to receive the Heart Safe Community Award from the International Association of Fire Chiefs and Medtronics, a major manufacturer of automatic external defibrillators; and

WHEREAS, recognizing uncommon commitment to emergency cardiac medical care and the general public safety, the Heart Safe Community Award will be presented to Assistant

Director of Putnam Ambulance Service (PAS) Tommy Copeland, PAS Director Randy Porter, Cookeville Fire Chief Gene Schmid, and Mayor Charles Womack on April 21, 2005; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Charles Womack has evinced great concern and compassion for the people of Cookeville and Putnam County by tirelessly devoting his time and energy to the PAD program; along with Tommy Copeland, Randy Porter, and Gene Schmid, Mayor Womack has made Cookeville/Putnam County's PAD program an amazing success; and

WHEREAS, the Cookeville/Putnam County Public Access Defibrillation program includes the Cookeville Fire Department, Putnam Emergency Medical Services, and the governing bodies of Cookeville and Putnam County; and

WHEREAS, between 2002 and 2004, twenty-three cardiac arrest victims have been saved thanks to the Cookeville/Putnam County PAD program and the AEDs it provides; and

WHEREAS, Cookeville and Putnam County's efforts to ensure the safety of its citizens by implementing AEDs and the PAD program exemplify the spirit and volunteerism characteristic of this great State; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly wishes to seize this golden opportunity to specially recognize the members of the Cookeville/Putnam County Public Access Defibrillation program for their selfless service to the citizens of this great State in times of emergency; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and recognize the estimable members of the Public Access Defibrillation program in Cookeville and Putnam County for their undying commitment to public health and safety and congratulate them upon receiving the Heart Safe Community Award from the International Association of Fire Chiefs and Medtronic; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.